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The data have been carefully and ably analyzed and the results are presented in the form of tables with explanatory text. Among the phases of the sickness problems discussed are: the distribution of sickness by age, sex and condition, *i. e.*, house confinement, ambulant but disabled from work, etc., the distribution of sickness by disease or conditions and duration, age, etc., the nature of care (in this connection community facilities are discussed in some of the reports) and other salient features of the data collected. In short the authors have endeavored from the data before them to give a fair and complete picture of the conditions found. They have not hesitated as they went on to point out weaknesses in the data, though the reports of successive studies indicate an increasing confidence on their part in their results.

In the hands of the careful worker these surveys are most valuable material. Their weaknesses must, however, always be kept in mind. The method is a census method and therefore presents a cross-section at a given instant and not a complete perspective. In comparisons between communities, for example, regard should be had to the influence, if any, of the time of year of the respective surveys or any other temporary factor. From the data presented showing the number of people sick and well, brought within the census, the number of cases of recorded sickness and their duration we can make a reasonable estimate of the average time lost per unit of exposure, *i. e.*, the rate of sickness. It is open to question whether this estimate can be safely taken as equivalent to the sickness rate which would be developed through such complete registration of the same population as would occur under a sickness insurance system. Probably the greatest weakness lies in the fact that the enumerators were not physicians and were not in position to make examinations of any kind and had, perforce, to take the patient's own diagnosis of his case. On this there was no check except where the family was a recipient of the visiting nurse service of the same company.

While we have devoted considerable space to the foregoing weaknesses of the plan, they are inherent in conditions such as all pioneer workers must face. It is to be hoped Messrs. Frankel and Dublin will be permitted to continue these studies and that they will continue, as they have in successive surveys, to bring in new phases of the sickness problem as facilities offer.

A. H. MOWBRAY.

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#### INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURE.

In December of 1917 this Institute issued its Year Book of Agricultural Statistics for 1906-1916, which is a survey of ten years of agriculture throughout the world and is described as "without any doubt the most complete work in existence on agricultural statistics as it is the result of the most extensive and, at the same time, the most detailed research yet devoted to this study." Aside from the intrinsic importance of the pub-

lications of this Institute, it is interesting to note that it has still remained active during the World War and is probably the only one of the international organizations whose permanent staff comprising representatives of all the belligerent countries has continued at work.

The scope and contents of the Year Book may be gathered from the following excerpts taken from the official circular of the Institute:

Comprising over one thousand pages, the 836 statistical tables are replete with every sort of information upon the subjects considered, thus establishing the volume as one of the highest importance. The number of agricultural products embraced is very large and those of tropical countries have received as much attention as the crops of the temperate zones have secured. In due sequence are furnished all the available data regarding areas cultivated in each country, the total yields realized, and the yields obtained on a given standard of area. Besides all this the Year Book includes the five years' and ten years' averages for the period included, so that readers can ascertain at a glance whether in any particular year cultivation has extended or has been restricted in a given country and whether the results have been favorable or the reverse. . . .

We find that the ascertainable annual yield of wheat throughout the world exceeds a thousand million quintals, and represents at present value, more than two thousand millions sterling; the yield of maize is nearly as large as that of wheat and is worth one thousand millions sterling, while the aggregate value of the six chief cereals (wheat, rye, barley, oats, maize and rice) is not less than six thousand millions sterling, or thirty billions of dollars, yearly.

The yield of potatoes is over fifteen hundred million quintals, and that of sugar beet is more than five hundred million quintals. Every year the world has at disposal a total of one hundred and fifty million quintals of beet and cane sugar, nearly one hundred and fifty million hectolitres of wine, ten million quintals of coffee, more than eight millions of leaf tobacco, nearly one million quintals of hops.

Textile industries account annually for nearly fifty million quintals of cotton, eight millions of flax, seven millions of hemp, while silkworm breeders in Europe and Asia deliver to the trade more than two hundred millions in cocoons. The raw material for vegetable oils comprises yearly throughout the world an aggregate of thirty million quintals of olives, and a similar quantity of linseed, four millions of hempseed, and five millions of rapeseed.

Turning to live stock, we find in the Year Book, for each of the ten years comprised, the numbers of horses, asses, cattle, sheep, pigs, etc., in eighty-two countries taken singly, and afterwards reckoned out as compared with each thousand inhabitants of the country, both at the opening and at the close of the period under review. . . . It appears that in Uruguay there are eight head of cattle to each inhabitant, in Argentina more than four head, in Australia more than two head, and throughout South America about two head per inhabitant, while in the United States and Canada there is one head of cattle per person, and in Europe only one to two persons.

Having given, by means of a large number of tables, the imports and

exports of the products previously considered as to yield, and showing the origin and destination of these imports and exports as regards each country, the Year Book takes up the question of consumption, also for each country. It is worth while to note that the consumption of wheat per head of population is extremely large in Australia, in Canada, in France, in Argentine, etc., while it is very limited in Japan, British India, Egypt, Sweden, etc., as the inhabitants of these countries live chiefly upon rice, maize, rye or other articles of food.

The prices of the chief products, on spot and for forward or future delivery form a special chapter, where readers will find all the data for a detailed examination of the marked fluctuations in recent years, inasmuch as weekly quotations are recorded in respect of the chief products. This chapter comprises tables of rates of freight and of exchange.

Then follows a chapter on fertilizers and chemical products employed in agriculture, including the data of production, trade and consumption, with the quotations, for phosphatic, potassic and nitrogenous fertilizers, for sulphur and sulphate of copper. . . .

At the conclusion of the Year Book there is a special chapter where readers can ascertain the authority for each of the data, and are thereby enabled, if they so desire, to consult these authorities and to verify the figures.

The volume is to be obtained at the *Service des abonnements et publications de l'Institut International d'Agriculture, Villa Umberto, Rome, Italy.* Price \$2.